CHAPTER XIX

THE REORGANIZATION OF FRANCE[1]

The Uses of Peace —- General Zeal for Reform — The First Consul's Diligence — State Control of the Church — Bonaparte and the Pope — The Organic Articles — Establishment of the Prefectures — The Bank of France — Its Successes — Funding of the Public Debt.

WITH this general pacification there was widespread contentment. Addington thought the peace would be no ordinary one, but a true reconciliation of the first two nations of the world. The continental dynasties believed that at last the expansion of liberal France had been curbed. The French themselves could not restrain their joy at the prospect of a new social and political structure sufficiently commodious for the exercise of their awakened energies, sufficiently strong to command respect from enemies at home and abroad. The builders were already at work before the ground was fairly cleared; the regeneration of French institutions which has indissolubly linked the name of Napoleon with the life of modern Europe was under way before the peace negotiations were concluded. The master workman found at his disposal two most important conditions: a clean tablet so far as the mo-

1 The Memoirs of Mollien, Miot de Melito, Chaptal, Lucien Bonaparte, Pasquier, and Consalvi; the works of Thibaudeau and Roederer; Sagnac: Legislation Civile de la Revolution Franjaise; Life of Sir Samuel Romilly; Haussonville: L'Eglise romaine et le premier Empire; Leouzon-le-Duc: Correspondance diplomatique du baron de Stael-Holstein et de son successeur le baron Brinkman.